often in division soon as Nichols or Barnes would from memory excel me I never shall forget Barnes' reading a demonstration the most difficult of those in the 1st end of Algebra letter for letter as I had given it to Lewis a day or two before Lewis asked me how I would do it & so I told him This was soon after Woolsey took our division & it raised B much in his estimation as the demonstration was neat & very concise. Goodrich used to be blamed but ~~for~~ from the injustice of the present appointments he is safe. What does Bushnell say. Tell me all that is going on in Yale

Your Friend Wm S Porter

(Who are the officers of the Bro & Lin If North has not sent me Goulds oration & Percevals poem I wish you to do it How do you like to be a Senior your studies be don't be lazy. What is Washburn going to do next year & others of your class Give me a long letter How is Mr Herricks School & Garfields Is North teaching yet. Who is married)

Mr Amos A Phelps
Yale College
New Haven
Connecticut

Coosawda Ala
March 25th

25

W. S. Porter

study botany if I had any book now is the time for it. The trees are putting forth their leaves appletrees in bloom peach trees in bloom the last of February I find various kinds of violets such as you have in gardens. The woods now look red with pinks. red blue & snow white this is a great country for botany. But my principal studies are Stewart & Locke I read them with a degree of enthusiasm Last year I took comparatively but little interest in them because I did not enter into the spirit of them I did not thoroghly understand them I like Locke the best I find more connexion not so much dry detail about old disputes I suppose North told you to send me the Journal if you have not money of mine in your hands I will send it to you by brother I wish you to sell my Geografphy & Atlas for what you can get my other things I wish you to keep till my return. I received a catalogue & suppose from you many of my class mates it appears are much attached to N H & well they may be it is the best place in the world Such preaching such religious meetings such libraries such access to valuable periodical publications so many literary men. How is Yale & the Eagle coming out Poor mother she has to suffer many trials I would that her unworthy husband had a little compassion on her & would ~~[illegible]~~ set her free from embarrassments but he is so parsimonious that I have but little hope of him. I wish Prof Silliman had a place in his councils & would tell them what he thought. How comes on Ives the singing master & Brown Any thing from N H will be interesting If you do not write before May give me the appointees I like to hear about them although they are often unjust. Many study for recitation only I have experienced this to my sorrow I always was satisfied with knowing my lessons without putting them into words. Mr Hooker cautioned me about this for instance some of the propositions of Euclid I perfectly understood without any attention to the demonstration so that

If you still think of coming on I will try to find such a situation for you By the way I found it quite a recommendation that I had before taught school. It is not considered safe in point of health to spend the last of the summer in this country They generally have a vacation at this season which would put us back too much if we expected to join the theological class in the fall. There are several inducements for coming hither to witness the manners & customs of the people the influence of slavery &c &c But you can have but little good society for a literary man but little good preaching & no valuable libraries You must bring your own books for reading If you cannot find employment at the north & wish to get a school here perhaps brother who will be at home in July can find a private conveyance for you. Your letter was a source of the highest gratification to me I heartily rejoice to hear of the prosperity of your musical societies I hope to find them almost perfect when I return in the fall. I am more & more impressed with the importance of the high cultivation of sacred music in college Too much importance cannot be attached to a distinct & proper pronunciation Here they whine away as flat as you please for instance the word upon they pronounce apon I see sister Eliza as often as once a fortnight when we have a real sing We have a Yankee with us who is a good tenor singer it "does my soul good" to spend an hour or two in this manner I still cultivate music as a science have made myself well acquainted with Calcott I wish to be remembered to the — Damit & Bethoven (alas I fear you will not honor the names) societies with my best wishes. I spend my time mostly in reading when not in school I have read the Highlanders. mere trash. Johnson's Rambler. &c I study chemistry Mineralogy & Mathematics occasionally & should

Coosada Autauga Co Ala. March 21

1826

Friend Amos

Your valuable letter came duly as you have probably been informed by North I ~~have~~ have just returned from my visit below & find not the prospects of a school for you so flattering as I expected I hear of none who get as great standing wages as I do The good teachers or rather most teachers take the school for the tuition they get & it would not be safe for you being a stranger & unacquainted with schoolkeeping to engage on such terms I think I may safely say however you can get 450 or 500 & board But you know the expenses of travelling such a distance must be great but little short of 100$ each way & 200$ you know will take off too much of your wages & then clothing books &c are as high again here as at the north One principal reason why I obtained 600 & board was they had had a good teacher who had made a partial engagement to stay another year whose wife was to assist him & teach music painting &c which she has been studying in New York the past year but the trustees of another academy about 6 miles distant enticed him away with the expectation that most of the scholars here would follow him & consequently that this school would be broken up which will probably be the case after my year is up though they have lately had this incorporated built a good house obtained a deed of a lot in this village & the ferry which yields an annual profit of about 200$ so that they have an inducement to keep up the school I have had applications since I commenced this school A Judge from some distance below came to Washington to my brother after me (I had previously been below & he had heard of me) & made brother the same wages that I get here to instruct his family & a few neighbours Whether he has obtained a teacher or not I do not know